

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8573

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS IN GREECE

1. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
IN GREECE TOOK PLACE MARCH 29 AND 30 DURING GENERAL
DISCUSSION OF ITEM 10 ON VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF GREEK SITUATION MADE BY NORWAY
AND NETHERLANDS AS WELL AS BY NGO'S REPRESENTING
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR RIGHTS OF MAN AND INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT MOVEMENT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS.

2. NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVE (ERIKSEN), AFTER REFERRING
TO VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND
BERATING SOUTH AFRICANS AND PORTUGAL, TURNED ATTENTION
TO GREECE. HE RECALLED THAT SITUATION FIRST RAISED IN
COMMISSION IN 1968 AND THAT GREEK REPRESENTATIVE HAD
ASSURED COMMISSION THAT SUSPENSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS
TEMPORARY. NOTED THAT FIVE YEARS HAD PASSED AND REPORTS
RECEIVED DAILY OF MILITARY AND POLICE REPRESSION,
ESPECIALLY AGAINST STUDENTS. HE REFERRED
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TO ACCEPTANCE BY GREECE OF OBLIGATIONS OF EUROPEAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRACED PROCEEDINGS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE WHICH LEAD TO DENUNCIATION BY GREECE OF THE THE CONVENTION AND THE STATUTE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. RELIABLE AND OBJECTIVE NEWS MEDIA REPORT A PERSISTENT PATTERN OF VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS. NOTED ESPECIALLY OF MALTREATMENT OF ALEXANDROS AND STATHIS PANGOULIS. EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOG WOULD SOON TAKE STEPS TO RESTORE THESE FREEDOMS.

3. THE NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE (VAN BOVEN), IN COURSE OF INTERVENTION ON THE ITEM, CITED REPORTS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS IN NOTING CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN GREECE.

4. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN REFERRED TO OVER 25 MISSIONS MADE BY GROUPS TO GREECE TO LOOK INTO SITUATION. REFERRED TO PROOF THAT SIX LAWYERS SUBJECT TO TORTURE. HE FELT THESE MISSIONS WERE USEFUL SINCE THEY OFTEN LEAD TO AN END OF EXCESSES. HE HOPED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON IMPROVING THE SITUATION.

5. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISMUN CITED REPRESSIVE ACTIONS AGAINST STUDENTS AND YOUNG WORKERS IN GREECE SUCH AS THE DECREE WHICH CANCELS THE RIGHT OF STUDENTS TO POSTPONE THEIR MILITARY SERVICE AND THE ARREST, WITHOUT CHARGE, OF THE SIX LAWYERS WHO WERE DEFENDING SOME OF THE STUDENTS. THESE ACTIONS " EXEMPLIFY THE EXTREMES TO WHICH A REGIME, SUPPORTED BY POWERFUL STATES PURSUING THEIR OWN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS, WILL STOOP."

6. THE GREEK OBSERVER, IN A HIGHLY- CHARGED REPLY, ATTACKED THE MOTIVES OF THOSE WHO ATTACK GREECE. THESE VERBAL ONSLAUGHTS WERE MADE FOR POLITICAL CAPITAL OF THE DELEGATIONS INVOLVED. THESE ARE POLITICALLY- MOTIVATED ATTACKS WHICH VIOLATE THE LIMITS OF THE HRC. HE CATEGORICALLY DENIED ALLEGATIONS AND REJECTED INTERFERENCE IN GREEK INTERNAL AFFAIRS. GOG TRYING TO FIND A SOLID BASES FOR DEMOCRACY TO SURVIVE. GOG IS HUMANLY INSPIRED AND SOFTENED BY NATIONAL CHARACTER. IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS FIGHTING FASCISM AND NAZISM. LIFE IN GREECE

CHARACTERIZED BY STRICT OBSERVANCE OF LAW WITH PROGRESS
IN ALL FIELDS. VIOLATIONS OF LAW ARE RARE. STUDENT UNREST
OCCURS IN MANY COUNTRIES AND SHOULD NOT CAUSE SURPRISE
IF IT ALSO OCCURS IN GREECE. HE CONCLUDED THAT " TRUTH
MUST BE ESTABLISHED."

7. NORWAY AND NETHERLANDS MADE BRIEF REPLIES NOTING
THAT THEY RAISED GREEK SITUATION BECAUSE OF THE
DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS OF THAT COUNTRY AND THEIR HOPE
FOR A SPEEDY RESTORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. NORWAY SAID
THAT IT WAS A HOPEFUL SIGN THAT GREECE HAD ATTENDED
THIS SESSION AS AN OBSERVER AND REPLIED. BUT HE
REGRETTED THAT NO GREEK COURT NOR THE GOG HAD
MADE INQUIRIES INTO ALLEGED VIOLATIONS. THE NETHERLANDS
REPRESENTATIVE ADDED THAT REPORTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.
THE HRC CANNOT REMAIN SILENT OR IT WOULD LOSE
CREDIBILITY. THE COMMISSION IS COMPETENT IN THIS
MATTER, SPECIFICALLY UNDER ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1235
(XLII) WHICH PROVIDES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION
OF INFORMATION CONCERNING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
RIMESTAD

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